

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00185 301338Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8236

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0185

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, VS

SUBJ: GOF POSITION ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN THE
LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

LONDON FOR GEORGE ALDRICH

REF: (A) STATE 020502 (B) STATE 020131 (C) HELSINKI
166 (NOTAL) (D) HELSINKI 157 (NOTAL)
(E) HELSINKI 133 (NOTAL) (F) SAIGON 1073

1. IN ACCORDANCE DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A, I
TODAY CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN TO MAKE
ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS PARALLELLING THOSE MADE
BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO TO FINNISH AMBASSADOR
TUOMINEN.

2. IN MAKING MY REPRESENTATIONS I DREW ON REFS A
AND B FOR POINTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH PROCEDURAL
AND SUBSTANTIVE VOTING ASPECTS OF QUESTION OF PRG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 00185 301338Z

PARTICIPATION AT LOW CONFERENCE IN PARTICULAR, AND

LEFT WITH FINNS AIDE MEMOIRE ON THESE POINTS.

3. I THEN IMPRESSED ON KARJALAINEN IMPORTANCE THAT
USG ATTACHES TO PRG QUESTION, ADDING THAT FINNS
WERE OF COURSE FULLY AWARE OF USG'S POSITION ON
DEVELOPMENTS IN VIET-NAM AND FACT THAT USG IN NO
WAY CONSIDERED PRG TO QUALIFY AS A GOVERNMENT, AS
WE HAD REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES DURING MY TALKS
WITH HIM AND IN DISCUSSIONS THAT EMBOFFS HAD ENGAGED
IN WITH MFA REPRESENTATIVES.

4. DRAWING ON REFS A, B AND F, I TOLD KARJALAINEN
THAT ALTHOUGH WE FELT THAT PRG HAD NOT GAINED SUPPORT
SINCE LAST YEAR, VOTE WOULD BE CLOSE AND FINNISH
ABSTENTION THEREFORE IMPORTANT.

5. I FINALLY MADE POINT THAT I UNDERSTOOD PRESSURES
ON GOF, BUT THAT USG EXPECTED FINLAND TO ACT AS A
NEUTRAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DECLARED POLICY OF
NEUTRALITY.

6. KARJALAINEN SAID THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF US
POSITION ON THIS QUESTION AND THAT VIEWS I HAD
PRESENTED WOULD BE GIVEN MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION
BY GOF IN MAKING ITS DECISION WHICH, ACCORDING TO
KARJALAINEN, HAS NOT BEEN MADE YET.

7. KARJALAINEN THEN SAID THAT QUESTION WAS A
DIFFICULT ONE FOR FINLAND. HE SAID THAT SITUATION
WAS UNCLEAR AND THAT THERE WERE IN EFFECT TWO
GOVERNMENTS THERE. WHEN I CHALLENGED HIM ON PRG
BEING A GOVERNMENT, HE FIRST CHANGED THAT TO
"VARIOUS AREAS ARE GOVERNED BY TWO PARTIES," AND
THEN AGREED TO WORD "CONTROLLED" IN PLACE OF
"GOVERNED". KARJALAINEN MAINTAINED THAT IT SEEMED
AS THOUGH SITUATION IN VIETNAM HAD CHANGED IN FAVOR
OF PRG. I REJOINED BY TELLING HIM THAT IF THIS
WERE SO, THEN IT WAS A RESULT OF DRV/PRG AGGRESSION
AND NOT LIVING UP TO PARIS AGREEMENTS AS GVN HAD DONE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 00185 301338Z

8. KARJALAINEN DISCLAIMED ANY PRESSURE ON GOF.
CONCERNING FINLAND ACTING AS A NEUTRAL, HE SAID THAT
THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT FINLAND WANTED TO BE -- A
"TRUE NEUTRAL" ON THIS QUESTION; I.E., NEUTRAL
VIS-A-VIS BOTH GVN AND PRG. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION
AS TO HOW SITUATION HAD CHANGED SINCE LAST YEAR,
WHEN FINLAND WAS NEUTRAL AND HAD ABSTAINED AND THIS
YEAR WHEN FINLAND IS STILL NEUTRAL, KARJALAINEN

ANSWERED THAT ABSTAINING HAD PERHAPS BEEN LESS THAN COMPLETELY NEUTRAL AND THAT SITUATION IN VIETNAM APPEARED TO HAVE BECOME WORSE FOR GVN.

9. KARJALAINEN SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY VIEWS OF USG TO HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER BY THIS HE MEANT PRESIDENT KEKKONEN OF THE CABINET.

10. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KARJALAINEN DID NOT SAY SO, AND THERE IS STILL SOME HOPE, HAVE AN UNEASY FEELING THAT GOF WILL IN FACT CAVE IN ON THIS QUESTION AND CHANGE FROM ABSTAINING TO SUPPORTING PRG PARTICIPATION AT LOW CONFERENCE. READING BETWEEN LINES OF KARJALAINEN'S REMARKS I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE AND HIS CENTER PARTY WILL NOT STAND UP TO PRESSURE FROM COMMUNISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, PRESSURE REINFORCED BY FINNISH BELIEF THAT SWEDEN WILL COME OUT FOR PRG. IT APPEARS THAT KARJALAINEN AND GOF ARE RATIONALIZING THEIR SWITCH, IF IT COMES ABOUT, ALONG LINES OF SWEDISH AGRICULTURE MINISTER LUNDKVIST (REFTEL E); I.E., THAT SINCE THERE IS NOT OPPORTUNITY TO ABSTAIN ON BOTH GVN AND PRG PARTICIPATION, PRG SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE WHENEVER GVN DOES. REF D ILLUSTRATES KIND OF PRESSURE FINNISH LEFTISTS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO EXERT IN MEDIA IN FAVOR OF PRG. MUCH MORE IMPORTANT AND UNFORTUNATE, HOWEVER, IS EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S DEMARI, LEADING NEWSPAPER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN WHICH A DEMAND IS MADE FOR GOF TO SUPPORT PRG PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.
KREHBIEL

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